



Press Release

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THE UNITED STATES: A GREAT PLACE TO STUDY

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U.S. Embassy in Bolivia

As we celebrate International Education Week (November 15-19), I'd like to highlight the benefits of studying in the United States. The growth of the international student population in the United States over the years has been a source of pride and benefit to our institutions of higher education. As Public Affairs Officer, I have had the privilege of meeting Bolivian alumni of American institutions of higher education and hearing first hand of their experiences in the United States.

There are currently 1,051 Bolivians in the United States actively pursuing their studies – approximately 700 at the undergraduate level and 350 at the graduate level. The U.S. is home to many of the world's finest educational institutions, and our colleges and international students bring cultural and intellectual diversity to our campuses and communities and promote greater understanding between U.S. citizens and people in other societies.

EducationUSA advising centers around the world provide advice and assistance to those students wishing to study in the United States. Here in Bolivia, the EducationUSA advising centers are part of the Centros Boliviano-Americano in the cities of La Paz, Cochabamba, Santa Cruz, Tarija and Sucre. To find the address, phone number and email of the center in your city, visit the State Department's website, <http://educationUSA.state.gov>.

We welcome and want to encourage international students to come to the U.S. to study. Unfortunately, many international students mistakenly believe that our visa refusal rates have risen dramatically or, even worse, that it is impossible to obtain a visa to enter the United States. In fact, our visa issuance rates are almost the same as they were prior to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

At our consular section in La Paz, we do our best to facilitate the student visa application process. Applicants do not have to schedule an appointment – they simply come any day between Monday and Thursday, between the hours of 10:00-11:15am. For further information about student visa application procedures here in Bolivia, please consult our embassy's webpage, at <http://bolivia.usembassy.gov/consulado/nivspanish.htm>.

We want students from other countries to take advantage of the exceptional educational opportunities in the United States. If you are thinking about your own educational future, I strongly recommend that you consider higher education in the United States. With over 3,600 fully accredited institutions of higher education, America offers numerous options from which to choose. Please visit the EducationUSA advising center at the CBA closest to you for more information. When you do, you will find that the United States is not only a welcoming, safe place to visit, but a great place to study.